

**SAGINAW VALLEY
MEDICAL CONTROL AUTHORITY
PRACTICE PARAMETER**

DROWNING/NEAR DROWNING

FIRST RESPONDER

I. Management

- A. **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER¹**
- B. Establish and maintain the airway with spinal stabilization, if risk of trauma²
- B. Provide oxygenation and support ventilations as needed.
- C. Obtain vital signs (blood pressure, pulse and respiratory rate).
- D. If **PULSE** and **RESPIRATIONS** absent, **Initiate CPR.**
 - 1. If submersion time is greater than one hour, refer to **Management for Dead On Scene Parameter.**
- E. Apply AED per protocol.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

- F. **CONSIDER COMBITUBE**
- G. Arrange for ALS intercept.
- H. Initiate transport toward ALS intercept, if transporting unit.³
- I. Obtain patients core temperature.⁴ If patient is hypothermic, go to Hypothermia/Frostbite Parameter.⁵

NOTIFY RECEIVING FACILITY

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT

- J. Monitor **EKG**
- K. **IV NORMAL SALINE @ TKO**

CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL

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- L. Possible orders post-radio contact (pulse absent)
 - 1. Medications or further defibrillation as ordered by Medical Control.

- M. Possible orders post-radio contact (pulse present)
 - 1. Medications as ordered.

¹ “Don’t become a victim!” This parameter should be initiated after properly trained personnel have removed the patient from the water.

² Patient suspected of hypothermia should receive gentle handling, as movement may precipitate Ventricular Fibrillation. Maintain horizontal position, if possible.

³ Prevent further heat loss by transport in a warm environment. Patient should be dry.

⁴ Primary method should be rectal, axillary is acceptable if rectal is not feasible.

⁵ Hypothermia patients are divided into three categories:

- a. Mild = 94-97 degrees
- b. Moderate = 86-94 degrees
- c. Severe = < 86 degrees

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